

**Virginia Latino Advisory Commission (VLAC) public meeting**

**June 4, 2004**

**12pm – 3pm**

**VLAC meeting will take place at the  
Virginia Beach Municipal Center (off of Princess Anne Road)  
Building 1  
2401 Courthouse Drive  
Virginia Beach, Virginia**

**Commissioners & Ex-officio members present:**

Ms. Beatriz Amberman  
Virginia Beach, VA

Ms. Gloria E. Ponce Rodriguez  
Norfolk, VA

Ms. Lou Arnatt  
Richmond, VA

Mr. Walter Tejada  
Arlington, VA

Ms. Maricel Quintana Baker  
Richmond, VA

Mr. Andres Tobar  
Arlington, VA

Mr. Ricardo Castaneda  
Harrisonburg, VA

Mr. Philip Vasquez  
Richmond, VA

Mr. George Crespo  
Powhatan, VA

Mr. Michel Zajur  
Richmond, VA

Mr. Pablo Davis  
Charlottesville, VA

**PUBLIC:**

Ms. Cecelia Espenoza  
Fairfax, VA

Captain Torres  
Chesapeake, Virginia

Ms. Leni Gonzalez  
Arlington, VA

Lieutenant Colonel Scott  
State Police

Ms. Tanya M. Gonzalez  
Richmond, VA

Corinne Geller  
State Police

Ms. Indira N. Moran  
Woodbridge, VA

Bob Mathieson

Mr. Esteban Nieto  
Dayton, VA

Tim Paul  
Department of Criminal Justice

Ms. Maribel Ramos  
Richmond, VA

Fran Ecker  
Department of Criminal Justice

Violet Gonzalez

Fagan Stackhouse  
Director of Human Services Department

Douglas Garcia  
Lieutenant Governor's Office

**ABSENT:**

Ms. Julia Torres Barden  
Richmond, VA

Mr. Ricardo Cabellos  
Vienna, VA

Ms. Dannah Card  
Pulaski, VA

Ms. Veronica Donahue  
Amherst, VA

Mr. Jorge E. Figueredo  
Springfield, VA

Ms. Mary Littreal  
Galax, VA

Mr. Chuck Mills (Maricel Quintana-Baker)  
Richmond, VA

Ms. Jenifer H. Nalli  
Fairfax, VA

Mr. Craig Schwartz  
Richmond, VA

Introduction by Chair Walter Tejada and Co-Chair Beatriz Amberman

Went through approval of minutes from previous meeting, members made no changes.

W. Tejada – Committees report- Draft of each Committee's report is due by next meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Member should be communicating with one another

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

L. Gonzalez – ESL testing of children and better collection of information through databases (migrant children)

G. Rodriguez – Dream Act introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch/ July 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting with Sen. Hatch

L. Gonzalez – important to address education for inmates

B. Amberman – Jorge sent an e-mail to add to the report for education committee but he called at last minute and she couldn't print out information.

W. Tejada – inmate issue is a terrific idea. Heard of many complaints from the inmate population.

L. Gonzalez – Is not sure if this will be a part of the report but it is one of their recommendations.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

C. Espenosa – July 1<sup>st</sup> HB 570 will go into affect and question is how will state enforce this law? What impact will this have on our community. Need to make recommendation to take to the Governor. For the chair and vice-chair of the Committee this issue puts them in a difficult position and need to depend more on the members of the Commission to carry out the message. There are 400 law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, how do we outreach? These officers are taking on additional responsibilities. The Committee will work on a survey to put together for law enforcement agencies.

W. Tejada – it is important to find out how law enforcement is informing the community. The community is in a panic because it is the #1 issue in the immigrant community right now.

G. Rodriguez – The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement published things in Spanish and want to work with our community.

W. Tejada – Gangs is another issues and he has asked the Arlington police to come up with a list of taskforce members that has been created and find out if funding has been granted and for what purpose?

R. Castaneda – in our community lots of focus is places on gangs but must emphasize it is not just a Latino issue.

W. Tejada – need to find the definition of a gang because there are different definitions. A new term “Hybrid” has surfaced which means that an African American person can be in a Latino gang and vice-versa. This sometimes stems from a social economic problem.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

T. Gonzalez – many job descriptions don’t mention bilingual skills. Recruitment of physicians, the web does not ask if they are in need of a bilingual physician. Ex. Is the Minority Recruitment Guide from North Carolina. Medical interpreters – cultural competency training information, education and outreach, it is important that some people have a training.

I. Moran – diverse cultural classes, education barriers facing the state.

T. Gonzalez – will be attending the conference on Health related issues.

I. Moran – having a hard time finding therapists, discussions of salary have been addressed.

Recruiting from other countries.

R. Castaneda – mental health interpreters – needs qualified bilingual and bicultural staff

## LANGUAGE ACCESS COMMITTEE

T. Gonzalez – working on collecting English and Spanish material from the State. She was on Radio Richmond and took 20 calls that were mostly negative. Title VI requires mandatory training – get best practices.

## BUSINESS ISSUES COMMITTEE

M. Zajur – public hearing about 1 month ago on June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup> in Arlington. The recommendations from Richmond’s Forum were:

3 areas

- 1) Explore ways minority vendors get bid, how to qualify and how to get certified
- 2) How can state help with business resources to the community, documenting what is available.
- 3) International level – July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> Conference in Mexico City. Many opportunities for Latin American and Virginia to do business

A. Tobar – under 1.9% of business being conducted through the state by Minorities.

M. Quintana-Baker – June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Newport News the Department of Business Assistance is having an event called the Small Women and Minority Owned Business reception, she will send information to the group.

C. Espenosa – make sure we highlight success stories not just negativity

R. Castaneda – in his area there was a study done on Latino owned Businesses

#### IDENTIFICATION ISSUES COMMITTEE

B. Amberman – forum in Newport News – those that spoke regarding starting a business can't because they don't have a social security number. In the Interim Report this committee made a recommendation to accept Matricula Consular. The Hispanic Dialogue has helped the community acquire Matricula Consular – 400 people showed up the first day. Invited Bank of America to these events because they allow people with a different status to open up bank accounts. Bank of America and Wachovia allow the use of the Matricula Consular or passports. This bring \$ to the State and Bank of America has factsheets that promote using the Matricula Consular.

R. Castaneda – address the issue of Business' selling false identification.

W. Tejada – Introduced presenters and wanted to make sure that the difference between HB570 and the MOU are distinguished

Lt. Colonel Scott – 2 issues – MOU preliminary setting will not do sweeps and raids and will not become INS/ HB 570 – impacts all police officers but they must have reasonable suspicion, confirmation from ICE that this individual is undocumented, previously convicted of a felony and previously deported. He feels that because of these parameters this law will not change much. The MOU is concerning the Latino community but the MOU will help law enforcement to better protect the immigrant communities, the intent is not to make any raids or sweeps. This will assist law enforcement in apprehending those in gang related activities. The intent is not to target any specific community. There are 24 Gangs – 3 are Latino, 11 Caucasian, and the rest are African American and Asian. The growth of the MS-13 is portraying a generated negativity towards the Latino community. Specially trained troopers will be scrutinized by Superintendent because we want to prevent anyone that is overzealous. Drafting the MOU with the Department of Justice – once the 30 are trained in the 5-week program they will be assigned throughout the state. The Drug Taskforce Authority granted in the 1996 Amendment permits the INS to enter in an agreement with the State Police. Outreach is necessary and the State Police has made attempts to work with the communities. They have sent Press Releases in English and Spanish; have met with Crime prevention units. Trying to recruit more Latinos to the State Police.

#### QUESTIONS

A. Tobar – significant amount of anti-immigrant legislation, was it initiated by the Superintendent?

Lt. Col Scott – HB 570 was sponsored by Delegate Albo. This has also stemmed from 9-11 and the Attorney General's gang initiatives.

B. Espenosa – HB 570 allows all law enforcement to enforce immigration laws and gives unfettered authority to the State Police.

Lt. Scott – criteria must be met before the person is taken into custody. To look up the files through ICE, it will take 10 minutes.

R. Castaneda – ex. If he is driving and speeding and is undocumented and he is pulled over, what will happen?

Lt. Scott – they will check if that person is a convicted felon first; that element in itself voids everything else.

W. Tejada – if someone was stopped and is undocumented and questioned by 1 of the 30 Law Enforcement what will happen?

Lt. Scott – if it is one of the 30 police officers they can enforce the law

W. Tejada – individuals that are undocumented are in limbo

R. Castaneda – those reporting a crime and are undocumented could be affected if questioned by 1 of the 30 trained Law Enforcement and eventually be deported.

3:10pm The Commission moved to another room and began the Public Forum.